

Mineral Industry Surveys

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PLATINUM-GROUP METALS IN OCTOBER 2005

The price of platinum, according to Platts Metals Week, slowed its climb that started in late July, which was believed to have been caused by the weakening of the U.S. dollar against major currencies. The price ended October at \$943 per troy ounce. The price of palladium slowly climbed from \$196 per troy ounce, at the beginning of the month, to \$226 per troy ounce at the end of the month. With continued concerns about the adequacy of supply, the price of rhodium reached \$3,000 per troy ounce on October 6 for the first time since 1991, after which the price started to decline and ended the month at \$2,715 per troy ounce. In contrast, the price of iridium and ruthenium remained unchanged.

On November 8, the Defense National Stockpile Center (DNSC) (2005) announced the October PGM sales results under Basic Ordering Agreement DLA-PGM-002. In October, DNSC sold 30.53 kilograms (kg) of iridium, valued at approximately \$170,860, to PGM Trading Corporation (New York, NY).

A South African mining bill that aims to encourage gold and platinum producers to help build a jewelry industry in South Africa has raised concerns from mining companies. The bill's plan was to capture profits from the value added jewelry manufacturing; however, the mining sector reportedly sees the bill as more red tape and more governmental control by forcing miners to enter the jewelry business. The South African Government appears determined to see the bill through (Bishop, 2005).

MMC Norilsk Nickel (Moscow, Russia) produced 26,100 kg of palladium and 6,200 kg of platinum during the third quarter of 2005 and forecast its production for the year to be 95,800 kg of palladium and 22,700 kg of platinum (MMC Norilsk Nickel, 2005). According to Norilsk, the worldwide demand for palladium was estimated to grow by 16,000 kg in 2006, with jewelry demand to be more than 40,000 kg of palladium (Interfax Mining & Metals Report, 2005).

Anglo Platinum Limited's (Johannesburg, South Africa) Polokwane Smelter remained on schedule to reopen in mid-December 2005. The company forecast of its production, including toll smelting done by Northam Platinum Limited (Johannesburg, South Africa), was reduced from 81,000 kg of platinum to 76,000 kg of platinum for 2005. Its other PGM production forecasts for 2005 were 41,000 kg of palladium and 10,000 kg of rhodium (Anglo Platinum Limited, 2005).

North American Palladium Ltd. (NAP) (Toronto, Ontario, Canada) announced a joint venture with Gold Fields Limited (Houghton, South Africa) to explore and develop the Arctic Platinum Project in Finland (North American Palladium Ltd., 2005a). During the third quarter of 2005, NAP produced 1,230 kg of palladium and 140 kg of platinum (North American Palladium Ltd., 2005b).

References Cited

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- North American Palladium Ltd., 2005a, North American Palladium and Gold Fields announce option/joint venture on Arctic Platinum Project: Toronto, Ontario, Canada, North American Palladium Ltd. news release, October 18, 2 p.
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TABLE 1
PLATINUM-GROUP METALS PRICES¹

(Dollars per troy ounce)

	Platinum	Palladium	Rhodium	Iridium	Ruthenium
2004:					
Low/date	771.00 May 10	180.00 Dec. 17	500.00 Jan. 5 and 6	87.00 Feb. ²	41.00 Jan. 5 and 6
High/date	940.00 Apr. 19	340.00 Apr. 12	1,525.00 Aug. 9 and 10	230.00 Mar. and Apr. ²	80.00 Nov. ²
Average	848.76	232.93	983.24	185.33	64.22
2005:					
August:					
Low/date	889.00/16 and 19	183.00/22 and 30	2,000.00/1	175.00 ²	85.00 ²
High/date	917.00/12	195.00/2 and 3	2,175.00/31	180.00/31	85.00 ²
Average	901.04	188.13	2,065.22	175.22	85.00
September:					
Low/date	900.00/1	184.00/12,13,14	2,225.00/1	180.00 ²	85.00 ²
High/date	934.00/20	203.00/20	2,750.00/30	185.00 ²	85.00 ²
Average	918.10	191.24	2,472.38	182.38	85.00
October:					
Low/date	917.00/5	194.00/5	2,600.00 ²	185.00 ²	85.00 ²
High/date	944.00/27	229.00/27 and 31	3,000.00/6 and 7	185.00 ²	85.00 ²
Average	933.76	209.71	2,755.71	185.00	85.00
Year to date:					
Low/date	847.00 Jan. 4	174.00 Jul. 5	1,330.00 Jan. ²	145.00 Feb., Mar., Apr. ²	55.00 Feb. and Mar. ²
High/date	944.00 Oct. 27	229.00 Oct. 27 and 31	3,000.00 Oct. 6 and 7	185.00 Sep. and Oct. ²	85.00 Jul. - Oct. ²
Average	884.85	192.88	1,875.25	165.37	72.16

¹Quotes from Engelhard Industries.

²Occured multiple days in month listed.

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PLATINUM METAL, BY COUNTRY¹

(Kilograms metal content, unless otherwise specified)

Period and country	Platinum grain and nuggets		Platinum sponge		Other unwrought platinum		Platinum, other		Platinum waste and scrap		Platinum coins	
	Value		Value		Value		Value		Value		Value	
	Quantity	(thousands)	Quantity	(thousands)	Quantity	(thousands)	Quantity	(thousands)	Quantity	(thousands)	Quantity	(thousands)
2004	376	\$9,520	68,800	\$1,830,000	6,710	\$178,000	4,550	\$105,000	590,000	\$135,000	12	\$345
2005:												
July	13	354	4,990	140,000	164	4,510	334	7,010	1,940	17,700	1	17
August	25	727	5,110	147,000	101	2,300	540	9,070	824	16,100	4	132
September:												
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	218	6,410	--	--	1 ²	27
Belgium	--	--	34	988	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Brazil	--	--	119	3,480	--	--	(3) ²	5	--	--	--	--
Canada	(3)	12	--	--	--	--	46 ²	1,310	6,390 ²	1,170	--	--
Chile	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	14 ²	74	--	--
China	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	102	--	--
Colombia	8	224	9	210	--	--	--	--	9 ²	100	--	--
Germany	--	--	135	4,030	1	36	404 ²	7,660	2	58	--	--
Ireland	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	127	--	--	--	--
Italy	51	1,350	26	694	(3)	5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Japan	--	--	--	--	3	83	1 ²	7	--	--	--	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	--	2	57	--	--	68 ²	3,120	--	--
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	759 ²	20,100	--	--
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	1 ²	10	11 ²	170	--	--
Russia	--	--	82	2,370	29	849	--	--	--	--	--	--
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6	5	--	--
South Africa	93	2,660	3,470	100,000	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	--	8 ²	185	--	--	--	--
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2 ²	40	--	--
United Kingdom	--	--	2,020 ²	59,600	27 ²	1,080	126 ²	4,240	63	2,600	--	--
Total	153	4,250	5,900	172,000	62	2,110	809	20,000	7,330	27,600	1	27
Year to date	247	6,910	52,800	1,480,000	1,240	32,800	5,410	114,000	66,300	117,000	20	489

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PLATINUM-GROUP METALS, BY COUNTRY¹

(Kilograms metal content, unless otherwise specified)

Period and country	Unwrought palladium		Palladium, other		Iridium ²		Unwrought osmium		Unwrought ruthenium		Rhodium ³	
	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)
2004	106,000	\$786,000	20,700	\$145,000	3,230	\$18,000	75	\$421	18,800	\$35,900	13,200	\$397,000
2005:												
July	9,880	46,800	772	4,790	224	1,400	11	103	1,660	3,950	1,700	101,000
August	7,990	48,500	782	4,030	151	933 ^r	10	100	2,270	4,700	1,210	73,800
September:												
Belgium	426	2,600	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	58	3,810
Canada	107	903	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Germany	19 ⁴	101	13 ⁴	62	28 ⁴	163	--	--	760	2,120	56	3,630
Italy	210	1,220	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6	293
Japan	41 ⁴	108	193 ⁴	171	--	--	--	--	26 ⁴	73	--	--
Norway	164	952	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Russia	4,270	25,600	375	2,270	--	--	--	--	--	--	65	4,150
Singapore	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	78	5,000
South Africa	3,060	18,200	--	--	31	163	--	--	901	2,290	825	56,000
Spain	4	27	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Switzerland	--	--	21 ⁴	199	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
United Kingdom	1,760 ⁴	11,000	341	1,900	34 ⁴	238	--	--	63	163	87	6,000
Total	10,100	60,700	944	4,600	94	565	--	--	1,750	4,650	1,180	78,800
Year to date	71,000	424,000	8,590	52,200	2,370	13,000	39	362	18,200	36,800	10,400	555,000

^rRevised. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Unwrought and other forms of iridium.

³Unwrought and other forms of rhodium.

⁴All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. EXPORTS OF PLATINUM-GROUP METALS, BY COUNTRY¹

(Kilograms of metal content, unless otherwise specified)

Period and country	Platinum ²		Platinum waste and scrap		Palladium ²		Iridium, osmium, and ruthenium ^{2,3}		Rhodium ²	
	Value		Value		Value		Value		Value	
	Quantity	(thousands)	Quantity	(thousands)	Quantity	(thousands)	Quantity	(thousands)	Quantity	(thousands)
2004	20,000	\$374,000	28,400	\$520,000	31,400	\$142,000	1,090	\$8,800	311	\$7,800
2005:										
July	1,530	37,400	2,580	43,900	2,060	8,400	72	594	33	2,540
August	1,730	43,300	1,770	36,700	2,350	10,200	67	489	28	2,130
September:										
Australia	2 ⁴	37	--	--	31 ⁴	255	--	--	--	--
Belgium	(5)	6	--	--	1	9	--	--	--	--
Brazil	100 ⁴	1,900	--	--	2	9	--	--	--	--
Canada	86 ⁴	2,010	93	884	432 ⁴	2,740	--	--	(5) ⁴	13
China	5	137	--	--	12 ⁴	41	6	53	--	--
Denmark	(5) ⁴	6	--	--	3 ⁴	28	--	--	--	--
Dominican Republic	--	--	--	--	2	6	--	--	--	--
Finland	--	--	--	--	1 ⁴	6	--	--	--	--
France	6 ⁴	101	--	--	21	153	--	--	--	--
Germany	135 ⁴	2,960	69	1,380	612 ⁴	2,500	5	30	--	--
Haiti	--	--	--	--	1	6	--	--	--	--
Hong Kong	60 ⁴	1,410	--	--	82 ⁴	314	79	498	(5) ⁴	12
Hungary	--	--	--	--	1	3	--	--	--	--
Iceland	--	--	--	--	2	9	--	--	--	--
India	1 ⁴	15	--	--	2 ⁴	7	--	--	1 ⁴	206
Ireland	8 ⁴	162	--	--	8 ⁴	10	1	7	--	--
Israel	(5) ⁴	4	--	--	45 ⁴	111	--	--	--	--
Italy	425	12,500	--	--	11	109	--	--	--	--
Japan	495 ⁴	9,660	160	4,400	63 ⁴	399	19 ⁴	133	--	--
Korea, Republic of	2	46	19	182	7 ⁴	23	1 ⁴	6	--	--
Kuwait	--	--	--	--	1	9	--	--	--	--
Malaysia	6 ⁴	106	--	--	--	--	40	198	--	--
Mexico	10 ⁴	220	--	--	3	24	(5) ⁴	7	(5) ⁴	36
Netherlands	6 ⁴	102	--	--	2	17	--	--	--	--
New Zealand	(5) ⁴	6	--	--	3	26	--	--	--	--
Norway	2 ⁴	40	--	--	13 ⁴	143	--	--	--	--
Philippines	1 ⁴	9	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Poland	--	--	--	--	(5)	4	--	--	--	--
Romania	(5) ⁴	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Singapore	1	16	--	--	2	14	--	--	--	--
Spain	(5) ⁴	3	--	--	38 ⁴	140	--	--	--	--
Sweden	8 ⁴	120	--	--	3 ⁴	36	--	--	--	--
Switzerland	3 ⁴	45	--	--	59	456	--	--	--	--
Taiwan	205 ⁴	5,370	--	--	274 ⁴	474	2 ⁴	6	--	--
Thailand	6 ⁴	100	--	--	10	75	--	--	(5) ⁴	17
Turkey	2	47	--	--	(5)	4	--	--	--	--
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(5) ⁴	23
United Kingdom	193 ⁴	4,370	1,020	20,900	900 ⁴	2,890	4 ⁴	33	52	2,940
Uruguay	--	--	--	--	9	51	--	--	--	--
Vietnam	1 ⁴	9	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	2 ⁴	29	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	1,770	41,500	1,360	27,800	2,660	11,100	157	969	54	3,240
Year to date	15,700	331,000	18,300	337,000	19,700	89,800	645	4,520	278	17,800

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Unwrought and other forms.

³Gross weight.

⁴All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

⁵Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.